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to privacy which an inmate will have with reference to his or her records. But this bill is before you thanks to an opinion written by the Attorney General, which I think misreads and misapplies the law. There is a section of statute, at 83-178, which says that information in an inmate's file shall not be available to public inspection, except by court order for good cause shown. That statute proceeds to list the types of items which are in that inmate's file. Medical records is not one of the items included. But, by the department putting the medical records in that file, it gave them a way to skirt the law's intent by saying, since it's in the file, the inmate himself or herself has no access to his or her own medical records. There is no state interest served by denying inmates access to their records. It is totally preposterous to require an inmate to hire a lawyer to get a court order to see his or her medical records when the policy of this state has been clearly stated that a person has a right to access to his or her own medical records. The Attorney General said that does not apply to inmates. Director Clarke has no objection to inmates seeing their records. But since the Attorney General wrote this opinion, it is binding. That necessitated me bringing a bill to put into statute something with a common sense reading of the existing law would make unnecessary. But rather than continuing to have these ongoing disputes, having inmates denied access to their records, being told that you must get a court order, and it's doubtful whether a court is going to appoint an inmate a lawyer to do this, I'm offering this bill. There was an article in the Omaha World-Herald, dated November 22 of the year 2000, last year. And, on page 14, this paragraph was written, inmates do not have the option of seeing a doctor outside the department, Corrections' Attorney, George Green said. You're not in summer camp, Green said; you don't shop for docs; you get the docs we assign. If inmates need to see their records, they can hire an attorney and get a court order for their release, Green said. This cavalier, insensitive attitude by the lawyer for the Department of Corrections is what makes this type of bill necessary and there may be others in the future. We are going to have to send a message to the department, to the lawyer that when we put something in statute, we mean it to do what we say that it should do. We mean for employees and others who administer the law to apply and administer the law according to